Difficulty faced by passengers to Himachal Pradesh due to late running of Shan-E-Punjab

204. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shan-e-Punjab train from New Delhi to Amritsar reaches Jalandhar City late frequently and due to which the passengers proceeding towards Himachal Pradesh have to miss the connecting train Link Express and also have to wait for hours at Jalandhar or Pathankot;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Link Express train leaves for its destination from Jalandhar on time without waiting for the passengers from Shan-e-Punjab;

(c) if so, the number of times the Shan-e-Punjab reached late Jalandhar city during the period from November 8, 1987 to February, 1988; and

(d) whether Government propose to attach two coaches with Shan-e-Punjab for connecting with the Link Express upto Pathankot from Jalandhar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Out of 100 days from November 8, 1987 to 15th February, 1988, the train missed connection with Link Express at Jalandhar City on 28 days mainly on account of foggy weather and accidents on the section. The passengers were cleared by a subsequent train which leaves Jalandhar City at 2.25 p.m. and arrives Pathankot at 7 p.m. A proposal to increase the connection time between the two trains is under consideration.

(d) No, Sir. It is operationally not feasible.

New Railway Train between Jalandhar to Talwara

205. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new train from Jalandhar City to Talwara Town *via* Mukerian to facilitate the journey for the passengers destined for stations in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no operational Railway line between Mukerian and Talwara. A 29 Kms. private siding constructed for Pong Dam Authority in 1964 has been out of use and is not fit for passenger train operations. In view of heavy investment on its take over and upgradation for passenger services there is no proposal to do so at present.

Rail overbridge in Orissa

206. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the overbridges constructed in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the details of those rail overbridges constructed in Orissa during this period;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the construction of some new rail over-bridges in Orissa; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 83.52 lakhs.

(b) Road under-bridge at Nergundi and Road over-bridge at Bhubaneswar have been commissioned. Road

over-bridge at Bolangir is nearing completion.

(c) and (d) Railways undertake construction of road over/under-bridges in replacement of busy level crossings jointly on cost sharing basis, with the State Governments depending upon the priorities accorded by the State Governments. Three road over-bridges, two near Bhubaneswar and one near Sambalpur, sponsored by the State Government are presently under consideration.

Preparation of Athletes for 1988 Seoul Olympics

207. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether preparations and proper training of our athletes and players who are likely to compete in 1988 Seoul Olympics has started;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the selection of athletes and players for the aforesaid olympics is likely to be made so that they can mentally and physically prepare themselves for participating in the Seoul games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In athletics the coaching camps are under progress. In hockey also training has started. One shooter and one table tennis player have qualified for participation in the Olympics and they are under-going training. One swimmer has been sent for training to Australia. Coaching camps in other disciplines where India expects to qualify have also started.

(c) The prospective players are already under coaching. The final selection will be made approximately six weeks before the games.

Construction of Bridges over Railway Crossings in Madhya Pradesh

208. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of bridges over railway crossings that have been sanctioned during the last two years in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the execution of these works has been progressing at a very slow pace; if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) what amount was allocated during the current financial year for each of these bridges and what amount has so far been spent on them; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to expedite the execution of these sanctioned bridges and by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Eleven.

(b) Finalisation of plans, estimates and other preliminaries for undertaking execution of the works is in progress, jointly with the State authorities.